

Three Buzzers for May



Black & Red
Hook Size 8-14 Hayabusa 387
Butt Glo-Brite No 4
Rib Silver wire
Body Black silk
Cheeks Jungle-cock splits



Black Threadless
Hook Size 8-14 Hayabusa 387
black nickel **Rib** Clear Spanflex
Wingbuds Orange spanflex
Thorax A build-up of clear nail
varnish **"Blood"** A spot of red
permanent marker

Blood Black

Hook Size 8-14 Kamasan
B175 **Body** Red silk **Rib** Black
spanflex **"Blood"** A spot of
red permanent marker
Wingbuds Black spanflex
Thorax A build-up of clear
nail varnish



Rob Denson
has fly-fished for
trout for 25 years,
visiting all four
corners of Britain
and Ireland,
combining his love
of fly-tying,
photography and
a rolling wave.

IN THE LATE 1980s, I removed my first-ever stillwater trout from its home – Lancashire's Stocks reservoir. A dark, damp and misty morning served up the scene, and, I hasten to add, a few fish that will live long in the memory. I remember that day in black and white. The sun never broke through the clouds from start to finish; it was all varying shades of grey, with the odd flash of a rainbow in the hand, or gold in the net. Better writers than I have been powerless to resist the pun, so I'll say it: I was hooked, thanks to Dr Bell and that most simple, yet unquantifiably prolific of all flies, the Black Buzzer.

Dr Bell's creation has had a long and action-packed journey since he gave us (in the 1930s) what is generally recognised as one of the, if not *the*, first interpretation of the buzzer pupa. The world of fly-tying and tying materials has had a similarly exciting journey, yet the humble Buzzer remains reassuringly simple. Two, maybe three or four materials, a minute of our time, and the job's done. Sadly, I no longer fish with Dr Bell's pattern. In fly-fishing's great scheme, I'm a product of my time. Less is most definitely more nowadays, and anorexia is *de*

rigueur, as is minimalism, simplicity, and a bit of translucency for good measure.

If only May were so simple. With biting easterlies one minute and sultry southerlies the next, May can be a fickle month, but to be fair, the fishing is generally good. More often than not, May heralds the start of the season proper, as things such as weather, water temperature, invertebrate and terrestrial life, and the general demeanour of the fish come together to allow us to fish the methods that please and thrill us most. For many, that means wet-flies, dry-flies or nymphs; May being May, that can sometimes mean all three in one day. To my mind, though, May is a "nymphy" month. In terms of buzzer hatches, other months may sometimes be more prolific than May, but rarely as reliable, and nothing is as reliable as a Black Buzzer... which brings me to this month's fly, at last. Three for the price of one, to be precise.


I'll spare you the buzzer-fishing lesson, partly because I'm rapidly running out of space and partly because I'm not necessarily the

man to give it. Suffice it to say, there's a million and one ways to fish Buzzers, all of them static – if you get my dead drift.

The success and elation derived from that first day afloat on Stocks taught me one thing – simple suggestion works; always has, always will – and set the tone for the rest of my fishing. I commend to you these Buzzers.

The Black Threadless Buzzer is rarely off my leader when the fish are on buzzers. The body of this buzzer is actually clear, taking its "black" colour from the underlying hook – maybe the reason why this Buzzer works well regardless of hatch colour. Good in any position on the cast.

A relatively new pattern, at just two seasons old, the Blood Black makes the squad again thanks to previous performances. The standard hook finish bounces light back through the "blood", radiating the all-important "transmitted light" to the fish. Coat the hook with red marker before ribbing. Fish on the middle dropper or tail.

An amalgam of classic Black Buzzers, from Dr Bell to John White to Alex Ferguson, the Black & Red sinks quickly and likes it where it's dark. One form of this fly or another has been another "default" Buzzer pattern for the past 15 years so. Four coats of clear nail varnish add weight to anchor your Buzzer cast. It's a tail Buzzer extraordinaire. 

"There's a million and one ways to fish Buzzers, all of them static"